





of the potential benefits and risks prior to starting therapy for reduction in breast cancer incidence (See Table 3 in **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**). Women should understand that NOLVADEX reduces the incidence of breast cancer, but may not eliminate the risk. NOLVADEX decreased the incidence of small estrogen receptor positive tumors, but did not reduce the incidence of estrogen receptor negative tumors or larger tumors. In women with breast cancer who are at high risk of developing a second breast cancer, treatment with about 5 years of NOLVADEX reduced the annual incidence rate of a second breast cancer by approximately 50%.

Women who are pregnant or who plan to become pregnant should not take NOLVADEX to reduce her risk of breast cancer. Effective nonhormonal contraception must be used by all premenopausal women taking NOLVADEX and for approximately two months after discontinuing therapy if they are sexually active. Tamoxifen does not cause infertility, even in the presence of menstrual irregularity. For sexually active women of child-bearing potential, NOLVADEX therapy should be initiated during menstruation. In women with menstrual irregularity, a negative B-HCG immediately prior to the initiation of therapy is sufficient (See **WARNINGS-Pregnancy Category D**).

Two European trials conducted to reduce the incidence of breast cancer were conducted and showed no difference in the number of breast cancer cases between the tamoxifen and placebo arms. These studies had trial designs that differed from that of NSABP P-1, were smaller than NSABP P-1, and enrolled women at a lower risk for breast cancer than those in P-1.

**Monitoring During NOLVADEX Therapy:** Women taking or having previously taken NOLVADEX should be instructed to seek prompt medical attention for new breast lumps, vaginal bleeding, gynecologic symptoms (menstrual irregularities, changes in vaginal discharge, or pelvic pain or pressure), symptoms of leg swelling or tenderness, unexplained shortness of breath, or changes in vision. Women should inform all care providers, regardless of the reason for evaluation, that they take NOLVADEX.

Women taking NOLVADEX to reduce the incidence of breast cancer should have a breast examination, a mammogram, and a gynecologic examination prior to the initiation of therapy. These studies should be repeated at regular intervals while on therapy, in keeping with good medical practice. Women taking NOLVADEX as adjuvant breast cancer therapy should follow the same monitoring procedures as for women taking NOLVADEX for the reduction in the incidence of breast cancer. Women taking NOLVADEX as treatment for metastatic breast cancer should review this monitoring plan with their care provider and select the appropriate modalities and schedule of evaluation.

**Laboratory Tests:** Periodic complete blood counts, including platelet counts and periodic liver function tests should be obtained.

**Drug Interactions:** When NOLVADEX is used in combination with coumarin-type anticoagulants, a significant increase in anticoagulant effect may occur. Where such coadministration exists, careful monitoring of the patient's prothrombin time is recommended.

In the NSABP P-1 trial, women who required coumarin-type anticoagulants for any reason were ineligible for participation in the trial (See **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).

There is an increased risk of thromboembolic events occurring when tamoxifen agents are used in combination with NOLVADEX. Tamoxifen reduced letrozole plasma concentrations by 37%. The effect of tamoxifen on metabolism and excretion of other antineoplastic drugs, such as cyclophosphamide and other drugs that require mixed function oxidases for activation, is not known. Tamoxifen and N-desmethyl tamoxifen plasma concentrations have been shown to be reduced when coadministered with rifampin or aminoglutethimide. Induction of CYP3A4-mediated metabolism is considered to be the mechanism by which these reductions occur; other CYP3A4 inducing agents have not been studied to confirm this effect.

One patient taking NOLVADEX with concomitant phenobarbital exhibited a steady state serum level of tamoxifen lower than that observed for other patients (ie, 26 ng/mL vs. mean value of 122 ng/mL). However, the clinical significance of this finding is not known. Rifampin induced the metabolism of tamoxifen and significantly reduced the plasma concentrations of tamoxifen in 10 patients. Aminoglutethimide reduces tamoxifen and N-desmethyl tamoxifen plasma concentrations. Medroxyprogesterone reduces plasma concentrations of N-desmethyl, but not tamoxifen.

Concomitant bronchospiric therapy has been shown to elevate serum tamoxifen and N-desmethyl tamoxifen.

**Drug/Laboratory Testing Interactions:** During postmarketing surveillance, T<sub>4</sub> elevations were reported for a few postmenopausal patients which may be explained by increases in thyroid-binding globulin. These elevations were not accompanied by clinical hyperthyroidism.

Variations in the karyopyknotic index on vaginal smears and various degrees of estrogen effect on Pap smears have been infrequently seen in postmenopausal patients given NOLVADEX.

In the postmarketing experience with NOLVADEX, infrequent cases of hyperlipidemias have been reported. Periodic monitoring of plasma triglycerides and cholesterol may be indicated in patients with pre-existing hyperlipidemias (See **ADVERSE REACTIONS - Postmarketing experience** section).

**Carcinogenesis:** A conventional carcinogenesis study in rats at doses of 5, 20, and 35 mg/kg/day (about one, three and seven-fold the daily maximum recommended human dose on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis) administered by oral gavage for up to 2 years revealed a significant increase in hepatocellular carcinoma at all doses. The incidence of these tumors was significantly greater among rats administered 20 or 35 mg/kg/day (69% compared to 20% observed for other patients (ie, 26 ng/mL vs. mean value of 122 ng/mL). However, the clinical significance of this finding is not known. Rifampin induced the metabolism of tamoxifen and significantly reduced the plasma concentrations of tamoxifen in 10 patients. Aminoglutethimide reduces tamoxifen and N-desmethyl tamoxifen plasma concentrations. Medroxyprogesterone reduces plasma concentrations of N-desmethyl, but not tamoxifen.

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NSABP B-14 Study					
Adverse Effect	% of Women		Adverse Effect	% of Women	
	NOLVADEX (n=1422)	PLACEBO (n=1437)		NOLVADEX (n=1422)	PLACEBO (n=1437)
Hot Flashes	64	48	Increased Bilirubin	2	1
Fluid Retention	32	30	Increased Creatinine	2	1
Vaginal Discharge	30	15	Thrombocytopenia*	2	1
Nausea	26	24	Thrombotic Events	2	1
Irregular Menses	25	19	Deep Vein Thrombosis	0.8	0.2
Weight Loss (>5%)	23	18	Pulmonary Embolism	0.5	0.2
Skin Changes	19	15	Superficial Phlebitis	0.4	0.0
Increased SGOT	5	3			

\* Defined as a platelet count of <100,000/mm<sup>3</sup>

In the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) adjuvant breast cancer trial, NOLVADEX or placebo was administered for 2 years to women following mastectomy. When compared to placebo, NOLVADEX showed a significantly higher incidence of hot flashes (19% vs. 8% for placebo). The incidence of all other adverse reactions was similar in the 2 treatment groups with the exception of thrombocytopenia where the incidence of NOLVADEX was 10% vs. 3% for placebo, an observation of borderline statistical significance.

In other adjuvant studies, Toronto and NOLVADEX Adjuvant Trial Organization (NATO), women received either NOLVADEX or no therapy. In the Toronto study, hot flashes were observed in 29% of patients for NOLVADEX vs. 1% in the untreated group. In the NATO trial, hot flashes and vaginal bleeding were reported in 2.8% and 2.0% of women, respectively, for NOLVADEX vs. 0.2% for each in the untreated group.

**Ductal Carcinoma in Situ (DCIS):** The type and frequency of adverse events in the NSABP B-24 trial were consistent with those observed in the other adjuvant trials conducted with NOLVADEX.

**Reduction in Breast Cancer Incidence in High Risk Women:** In the NSABP P-1 Trial, there was an increase in five serious adverse effects in the NOLVADEX group: endometrial cancer (33 cases in the NOLVADEX group vs. 14 in the placebo group); pulmonary embolism (18 cases in the NOLVADEX group vs. 6 in the placebo group); deep vein thrombosis (30 cases in the NOLVADEX group vs. 19 in the placebo group); stroke (34 cases in the NOLVADEX group vs. 24 in the placebo group); catract formation (540 cases in the NOLVADEX group vs. 483 in the placebo group) and contract surgery (101 cases in the NOLVADEX group vs. 63 in the placebo group) (See **WARNINGS** and Table 3 in **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**).

The following table presents the adverse events observed in NSABP P-1 by treatment arm. Only adverse events more common on NOLVADEX than placebo are shown.

NSABP P-1 Trial: All Adverse Events					
	% of Women			% of Women	
	NOLVADEX N=6681	PLACEBO N=6707		NOLVADEX N=6681	PLACEBO N=6707
<b>Self Reported Symptoms</b>	<b>N=6441<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>N=6469<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Adverse Effects Other Toxicities</b>	<b>N=6492<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>N=6484<sup>3</sup></b>
Hot Flashes	80	68	Mood	11.0	10.8
Vaginal Discharges	55	35	Infection/Sepsis	6.0	5.1
Vaginal Bleeding	23	22	Constipation	4.4	3.2
<b>Laboratory Abnormalities</b>	<b>N=6520<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>N=6535<sup>2</sup></b>	Altopexia	5.2	4.4
Platelets decreased	0.7	0.3	Skin	5.6	4.7
			Allergy	2.5	2.1

<sup>1</sup> Number with Quality of Life Questionnaires

<sup>2</sup> Number with Treatment Follow-up Forms

<sup>3</sup> Number with Adverse Drug Reaction Forms

In the NSABP P-1 trial, 15.0% and 9.7% of participants receiving NOLVADEX and placebo therapy, respectively withdrew from the trial for medical reasons. The following are the medical reasons for withdrawing from NOLVADEX and placebo therapy, respectively: Hot flashes (3.1% vs. 1.5%) and Vaginal Discharge (0.5% vs. 0.1%).

On the NSABP P-1 Trial, 8.7% and 9.6% of participants receiving NOLVADEX and placebo therapy, respectively withdrew for non-medical reasons.

On the NSABP P-1 Trial, hot flashes of any severity occurred in 68% of women on placebo and in 80% of women on NOLVADEX. Severe hot flashes occurred in 28% of women on placebo and 45% of women on NOLVADEX. Vaginal discharge occurred in 35% and 55% of women on placebo and NOLVADEX respectively; and was severe in 4.1% and 12.3% respectively. There was no difference in the incidence of vaginal bleeding between treatment arms.

**Pediatric Patients - McCune-Albright Syndrome:** Mean uterine volume increased after 6 months of treatment and doubled at the end of the one-year study. A causal relationship has not been established; however, as an increase in the incidence of endometrial adenocarcinoma and uterine sarcoma has been noted in adults treated with NOLVADEX (see **BOXED WARNING**), continued monitoring of McCune-Albright patients treated with NOLVADEX for long-term effects is recommended. **The safety and efficacy of NOLVADEX for girls aged two to 10 years with McCune-Albright Syndrome and precocious puberty have not been reported beyond one year of treatment. The long-term effects of NOLVADEX therapy in girls have not been established.**

**Postmarketing experience:** Less frequently reported adverse reactions are vaginal bleeding, vaginal discharge, menstrual irregularities, skin rash and headaches. Usually these have not been of sufficient severity to require dosage reduction or discontinuation of treatment. Very rare reports of erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, bullous pemphigoid, interstitial pneumonitis and rare reports of hypersensitivity reactions including angioedema have been reported with NOLVADEX therapy. In some of these cases, the time to onset was more than one year. Rarely, elevation of serum triglyceride levels, in some cases with pancreatitis, may be associated with the use of NOLVADEX (see **PRECAUTIONS - Drug/Laboratory Testing Interactions** section).

**OVERDOSAGE**  
Signs observed at the highest doses following studies to determine LD<sub>50</sub> in animals were respiratory difficulties and convulsions.

Acute overdose in humans has not been reported. In a study of advanced metastatic cancer patients which specifically determined the maximum tolerated dose of NOLVADEX in evaluating the use of very high doses to overcome multidrug resistance, acute neurotoxicity manifested by tremor, hyper-reflexia, unsteady gait and dizziness were noted. These symptoms occurred within 3-5 days of beginning NOLVADEX and cleared within 2-5 days after stopping therapy. No permanent neurologic toxicity was noted. One patient experienced a seizure several days after NOLVADEX was discontinued and neurologic symptoms had resolved. The causal relationship of the seizure to NOLVADEX therapy is unknown. Doses given in these patients were all greater than 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> loading dose, followed by maintenance doses of 150 mg/m<sup>2</sup> of NOLVADEX given twice a day.

In the same study, prolongation of the QT interval on the electrocardiogram was noted when patients were given doses higher than 250 mg/m<sup>2</sup> loading dose, followed by maintenance doses of 80 mg/m<sup>2</sup> of NOLVADEX given twice a day. For a woman with a body surface area of 1.5 m<sup>2</sup> the minimal loading dose and maintenance doses given at which neurological symptoms and QT changes occurred were at least 6 fold higher in respect to the maximum recommended dose.

No specific treatment for overdose is known; treatment must be symptomatic.

#### DOSSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

For patients with breast cancer, the recommended daily dose is 20-40 mg. Dosages greater than 20 mg per day should be given in divided doses (morning and evening).

In three single agent adjuvant studies in women, one 10 mg NOLVADEX tablet was administered two (ECOG and NATO) or three (Toronto) times a day for two years. In the NSABP B-14 adjuvant study in women with node-negative breast cancer, one 10 mg NOLVADEX tablet was given twice a day for at least 5 years. Results of the B-14 study suggest that continuation of therapy beyond five years does not provide additional benefit (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**). In the EBCTCG 1995 overview, the reduction in recurrence and mortality was greater in those studies that used tamoxifen for about 5 years than in those that used tamoxifen for a shorter period of therapy. There was no indication that doses greater than 20 mg per day were more effective. Current data from clinical trials support 5 years of adjuvant NOLVADEX therapy for patients with breast cancer.

**Ductal Carcinoma in Situ (DCIS):** The recommended dose is NOLVADEX 20 mg daily for 5 years.

**Reduction in Breast Cancer Incidence in High Risk Women:** The recommended dose is NOLVADEX 20 mg daily for 5 years. There are no data to support the use of NOLVADEX other than for 5 years (See **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY - Clinical Studies - Reduction in Breast Cancer Incidence in High Risk Women**).

#### HOW SUPPLIED

**10 mg Tablets** containing tamoxifen as the citrate in an amount equivalent to 10 mg of tamoxifen (round, biconvex, uncoated, white tablet identified with NOLVADEX 600 debossed on one side and a cameo debossed on the other side) are supplied in bottles of 60 tablets, 180 tablets and 2500 tablets. NDC 0310-0600.

**20 mg Tablets** containing tamoxifen as the citrate in an amount equivalent to 20 mg of tamoxifen (round, biconvex, uncoated, white tablet identified with NOLVADEX 604 debossed on one side and a cameo debossed on the other side) are supplied in bottles of 30 tablets, 90 tablets, and 1250 tablets. NDC 0310-0604.

Store at controlled room temperature, 20-25°C (68-77°F) [see USP]. Dispense in a well-closed, light-resistant container.

#### MEDICATION GUIDE

NOLVADEX® (NOLE-val-dex) Tablets

Generic Name: Tamoxifen (ta-MOX-i-fen)

Written for women who use NOLVADEX to lower their high chance of getting breast cancer or who have ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS)

This Medication Guide discusses only the use of NOLVADEX to lower the chance of getting breast cancer in high-risk women and in women treated for DCIS.

People taking NOLVADEX to treat breast cancer have different benefits and different decisions to make than high-risk women or women with ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) taking NOLVADEX to reduce the chance of getting breast cancer. If you already have breast cancer, talk with your doctor about how the benefits of treating breast cancer with NOLVADEX compare to the risks that are described in this document.

#### Why should I read this Medication Guide?

This guide has information to help you decide whether to use NOLVADEX to lower your chance of getting breast cancer.

**You and your doctor should talk about whether the possible benefit of NOLVADEX in lowering your high chance of getting breast cancer is greater than its possible risks.** Your doctor has a special computer program or hand-held calculator to tell if you are in the high-risk group. If you have DCIS and have been treated with surgery and radiation therapy, your doctor may prescribe NOLVADEX to decrease your chance of getting invasive (spreading) breast cancer.

Read this guide carefully before you start NOLVADEX. It is important to read the information you get each time you get more medicine. There may be something new. This guide does not tell you everything about NOLVADEX and does not take the place of talking with your doctor.

Only you and your doctor can determine if NOLVADEX is right for you.

**What is the most important information I should know about using NOLVADEX to reduce the chance of getting breast cancer?**

NOLVADEX is a prescription medicine that is like estrogen (female hormone) in some ways and different in other ways. In the breast, NOLVADEX can block estrogen's effects. Because it does these, NOLVADEX may block the growth of breast cancers that need estrogen to grow (cancers that are estrogen- or progesterone-receptor positive).

NOLVADEX may lower the chance of getting breast cancer in women with a higher than normal chance of getting breast cancer in the next five years (high-risk women) and women with DCIS. Because high-risk women don't have cancer yet, it is important to think carefully about whether the possible benefit of NOLVADEX in lowering the chance of getting breast cancer is greater than its possible risks.

This Medication Guide reviews the risks and benefits of using NOLVADEX to reduce the chance of getting breast cancer in high-risk women and women with DCIS. This guide does NOT discuss the special benefits and decisions for people who already have breast cancer.

#### Why do women and men use NOLVADEX?

NOLVADEX has more than one use. NOLVADEX is used:

1. **to lower the chance of getting breast cancer** in women with a higher than normal chance of getting breast cancer in the next 5 years (high-risk women).

2. **to lower the chance of getting invasive (spreading) breast cancer** in women who had surgery and radiation for ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS). DCIS means the cancer is only inside the milk ducts.

3. **to treat breast cancer** in women after they have finished early treatment. Early treatment can include surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy. NOLVADEX may keep the cancer from spreading to others parts of the body. It may also reduce the woman's chance of getting a new breast cancer.

4. in women and men, **to treat breast cancer** that has spread to other parts of the body (metastatic breast cancer).

This guide talks only about using NOLVADEX to lower the chance of getting breast cancer (#1 and #2 above).

**What are the benefits of NOLVADEX to lower the chance of getting breast cancer in high-risk women and in women treated for DCIS?**

A large US study looked at **high-risk women** and compared the ones who took NOLVADEX for 5 years with others who took a pill without NOLVADEX (placebo). High-risk women were defined as women who have a 1.7% or greater chance of getting breast cancer in the next 5 years. The incidence of these tumors was significantly greater among women who took NOLVADEX than among women who took placebo. The incidence of these tumors was significantly greater among women who took NOLVADEX than among women who took placebo. The incidence of these tumors was significantly greater among women who took NOLVADEX than among women who took placebo.

• Out of every 1,000 high-risk women **who took a placebo**, each year about 7 got breast cancer.

• Out of every 1,000 high-risk women **who took NOLVADEX**, each year about 4 got breast cancer.

The study showed that on average, high-risk women who took NOLVADEX lowered their chances of getting breast cancer by 44%, from 7 in 1,000 to 4 in 1,000.

Another US study looked at **women with DCIS** and compared those who took NOLVADEX for 5 years with others who took a placebo. In this study:

• Out of every 1,000 women with DCIS **who took placebo**, each year about 17 got breast cancer.

• Out of every 1,000 women with DCIS **who took NOLVADEX**, each year about 10 got breast cancer.

The study showed that on average, women with DCIS who took NOLVADEX lowered their chances of getting invasive (spreading) breast cancer by 43%, from 17 in 1,000 to 10 in 1,000.

**These studies do not mean that taking NOLVADEX will lower your personal chance of getting breast cancer.** We do not know what the benefits will be for any one woman who takes NOLVADEX to reduce her chance of getting breast cancer.

**What are the risks of NOLVADEX?**  
Signs observed at the highest doses following studies to determine LD<sub>50</sub> in animals were respiratory difficulties and convulsions.

Acute overdose in humans has not been reported. In a study of advanced metastatic cancer patients which specifically determined the maximum tolerated dose of NOLVADEX in evaluating the use of very high doses to overcome multidrug resistance, acute neurotoxicity manifested by tremor, hyper-reflexia, unsteady gait and dizziness were noted. These symptoms occurred within 3-5 days of beginning NOLVADEX and cleared within 2-5 days after stopping therapy. No permanent neurologic toxicity was noted. One patient experienced a seizure several days after NOLVADEX was discontinued and neurologic symptoms had resolved. The causal relationship of the seizure to NOLVADEX therapy is unknown. Doses given in these patients were all greater than 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> loading dose, followed by maintenance doses of 150 mg/m<sup>2</sup> of NOLVADEX given twice a day.

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